[19th September 1947

Increase in grant to pensioners

* 29 *Q.*—Sri B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of increase granted to Government pensioners of non-gazetted ranks;

(*b*) whether the amount is in proportion to the increase granted to those still in service; and

(*c*) the amount of increase granted to pensioners who retired as gazetted officers?

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (*a*) & (*c*) As recommended by the Cabinet Salaries Committee, the Government have sanctioned with effect from 1st January 1947 temporary increase to pensioners at the following enhanced rates:—

	Temporary increase per mensem.
	RS.
Pensions of less than Rs. 40 per mensem ...	8
Pensions of Rs. 40 and above but not exceeding Rs. 100	9

No separate rates have been prescribed for pensioners who retired as non-gazetted and gazetted officers, but all pensioners drawing pensions within the above limits are eligible for the temporary increase, until further orders.

" (*b*) Pensioners do not stand on the same footing as Government servants on duty and therefore the Government do not admit that the rate of temporary increase of pension sanctioned to pensioners should be proportionate to the increase granted to Government servants on duty."

Sri B. BHIMA RAO:—" Do not the Government consider that the pensioners who are in receipt of small amounts are more deserving of increase than the people on active service who are drawing more than they?"

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The grant of pensions is in consideration of past services. We have given increases for those at present in service; it is not desirable that we should go on paying higher rates of pensions for those who have retired long ago."

Travelling allowance to peons.

* 30 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: With reference to answer to question No. 105 answered on 11th March 1947 and the answer to the supplementary question on the same, will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have since revised the scale of travelling allowances to peons?

19th September 1947]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Government have examined the question and consider that no revision of the rates of travelling allowance is called for at present."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" While the revision of travelling allowance in the case of others is called for, why, in the case of peons alone, whose allowances are so small, should the Government consider it is not necessary?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There has been revision from time to time; once in 1943 and then again in 1945. The question of raising the daily allowance of peons is considered by the Government from time to time."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister again consider the question now that the cost of living has gone up so high?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The present rates as compared with 1943 are very favourable."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The Hon. Minister said that there was a revision in 1945; now it is 1947 and we are getting into 1948 and the cost of living is going high."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The present rates are quite satisfactory."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to have the question re-examined; I do not suggest that he should grant my request."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" As I said, from time to time they are being examined; even 3 or 4 days ago, peons going up to Delhi had their travelling allowance revised and enhanced."

Bus stop in front of Central Station.

* 31 *Q.*—SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the bus stop in front of the Central Station has been shifted away from the station; and if so, why; and

(*b*) whether it is proposed to shift it to a place as near the station as possible for the convenience of the mufassal passengers?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) In order to avoid heavy congestion of traffic which was occurring in front of the Central Railway Station, the bus stops for buses of different routes were re-fixed by the Secretary, Road Traffic Board, Madras, with effect from 25th May 1946 as shown below :—

(i) All suburban buses from Saidapet, Alandur, Lattice Bridge, Pallavaram, Poonamallee and Villivakkam to stop at the present bus stop at the Central Station on the inside of the island.